

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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2011

MAINE AGRICULTURAL FAIR ANNUAL REPORT

Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural
Resources



January 26, 27 & 28, 2012
Holiday Inn by the Bay
Portland, Maine

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MAINE AGRICULTURAL FAIRS

2011

Prepared by:

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES**

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Director, Maine State Harness Racing Commission

Presented at the 100th Annual Meeting of the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs

January 26-28, 2012

STIPEND FUND

This year 25 licensed agricultural fairs will receive a share of the stipend fund. Athens Fair did not operate in 2011. Each venue is to be congratulated for providing their communities with an agricultural educational opportunity. Additionally, these same venues are to be commended for the capital improvements they continue to make each year.

STIPEND FUNDS AVAILABLE

Table II, explains the source of the Stipend Fund. **All the funds originate from the harness racing handles at licensed pari-mutuel facilities.** In addition, 5% is taken from the amount credited for the State Commission Taxes, and 9% is taken from the Commercial Meet Stipend Fund. Also, Title 8, Section 275, provides for an additional .072% from the total straight handle, .049% from the total exotic handle. In addition, .402% is taken from the total exotic, and .189% from the total straight interstate simulcast commissions for the Agricultural Stipend Fund. From these amounts, 13% is deducted for the Department's administration of the Stipend Fund. The remainder of the moneys contributed is available for the Premium and Facility Stipend Funds.

This year the handle was down by 1.34 % from last year. The amount collected from the wagers was \$426,064.05. From the total amount collected 0.072% of the total live and intra-state regular wagers, 0.049% of the total live and intra-state exotic wagers, .0402% of the total and exotic and .189% of the total straight interstate simulcast commissions must set aside for the Agricultural Stipend Fund leaving no balance to be credited to the Extended Meet Stipend Fund.

The 5% collected from the state tax on wagers was \$32,138.47 down \$1,125.08 from 2010. The Commercial Meet Stipend share for the Agricultural Fair Stipend is \$7,359.03. Thirteen percent of the total monies available for the Stipend Fund, \$60,523.55, is allocated to the Department for administration bring the total stipend available to fairs for 2011 to \$405,038.00.

STIPEND FUND DISTRIBUTION

The allocation of the stipend fund is established by statute. Forty-four percent is divided evenly among pari-mutuel fairs to partially reimburse for expenses in improving facilities. Eight percent is divided among the non pari-mutuel fairs to partially reimburse for expenses in improving facilities. The distribution is based on the proportion of premiums paid; and 48% is the premium stipend distributed to all fairs based on the premiums paid. The amounts are shown in Table II.

The amount of Premiums Allowed; the Premium Stipend; Facility Improvement Stipend; and Total Stipends paid are shown in Table I. The total amount of premiums allowed was \$1,460,813. The Premium Stipend Fund is 14.30 % of the premiums paid to exhibitors.

The Facilities Improvement Fund was \$196,081.00. The nine pari-mutuel fairs received equal shares of \$18,435.00. The amount distributed to the sixteen non-pari-mutuel fairs was in proportion to the premiums they paid to exhibitors.

Table III provides a comparison of premiums allowed and stipend received for the past three years.

Table IV provides information for the Facility Improvement Fund. Information contained in this Table IV is the balance carried forward from 2010; improvements approved for 2011; facility stipend received for 2011; and, the balance carried forward from 2011 to 2012.

Tables V, VI, and VII provide information on the distribution of the Agricultural Fair Support Fund, which are funds received from the operation of the Hollywood Slots in Bangor, Maine.

TABLE I

TRACK	2011 PREMIUMS APPROVED	2011 PREMIUM STIPEND	2011 FACILITY STIPEND	2011 TOTAL STIPEND
ACTON	27,254	3,898	1,595	5,493
ATHENS	0	0	0	0
BANGOR	57,515	8,227	3,366	11,593
BLUE HILL	63,984	9,152	3,745	12,897
CLINTON	42,554	6,087	2,491	8,578
COMMON GROUND	31,903	4,564	1,867	6,431
CUMBERLAND	109,053	15,599	18,435	34,034
FARMINGTON	67,197	9,612	18,435	28,047
FRYEBURG	300,734	43,018	18,435	61,453
HOULTON	70,846	10,134	4,147	14,281
LITCHFIELD	40,655	5,815	2,380	8,195
MONMOUTH	16,874	2,414	987	3,401
NEW PORTLAND	11,015	1,576	645	2,221
NORTHERN MAINE	72,305	10,343	18,435	28,778
OSSIPEE VALLEY	37,067	5,302	2,170	7,472
OXFORD COUNTY	51,972	7,434	18,435	25,869
PISCATAQUIS VALLEY	34,138	4,883	1,998	6,881
PITTSTON	24,041	3,439	1,407	4,846
SKOWHEGAN	117,892	16,864	18,435	35,299
SPRINGFIELD	37,236	5,326	2,179	7,505
TOPSHAM	44,836	6,413	18,435	24,848
UNION	59,852	8,561	18,435	26,996
WINDSOR	121,582	17,391	18,435	35,826
WORLD'S FAIR	9,542	1,365	559	1,924
HARMONY FREE FAIR	10,766	1,540	630	2,170
TOTALS	1,460,813	208,957	196,081	405,038
Fiber Frolic	377.00			
	1,461,190.00			

TABLE II
SOURCE OF STIPEND FUND

REVENUE	426,064.06		
Source	2011	2010	2009
TOTAL HANDLE	39,662,617	40,201,085	43,550,186
A. Exotic Wagers	3,420,553	3,727,813	3,883,363
B. Regular Wagers	1,492,657	1,627,033	1,698,782
C. Exotic Comms.	5,303,339.05	5,500,565.14	6,087,331.00
D. Regular Comms.	1,973,335.63	1,852,531.67	1,943,023.99
STIPEND TO FAIRS			
From The Cap	400,000.00	400,000.00	400,000.00
20% of Over \$400,000	0.00	708.14	7,176.93
A X .049%	1,676.07	1,826.63	1,902.85
B X .072%	1,074.71	1,171.46	1,223.12
C X .402%	21,319.42	22,112.27	24,471.07
D X .189%	3,729.60	3,501.28	3,672.32
SUBTOTAL FROM WAGERS	426,064.06	429,319.78	438,446.29
5% of State Comms.	32,138.50	33,263.55	36,305.76
Comm. Meet Stipend	7,359.03	7,359.03	12,188.70
13% For Administration	-60,523.01	-61,092.51	-63,302.30
TOTAL AVAILABLE	405,038.58	408,849.86	423,638.45
EXTENDED MEET STIPEND			
80% of Amnt Over \$400,000	0.00	2,832.58	28,707.73
ALLOCATION TO STIPEND FUNDS:			
Premium Stipend Fund	208,958	211,296	220
Facility Improvement Fund			
Pari-Mutuel Fairs 9	165,914	167,161	172,503
Non-Pair Mutuel Fairs 16	30,166	30,393	31,364

**TABLE III
COMPARISON OF THE LAST THREE YEARS**

FAIR	PREMIUMS ALLOWED			TOTAL STIPEND RECEIVED		
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010	2009
ACTON	27,254	33,757	29,608	5,493	6,164	5,988
ATHENS	0	6,725	5,662	0	1,228	1,145
BANGOR	57,515	55,787	60,307	11,593	10,187	12,194
BLUE HILL	63,984	70,789	64,442	12,897	12,928	13,032
CLINTON	42,554	43,703	38,774	8,578	7,980	7,841
COMMON GROUND	31,903	49,510	46,558	6,431	9,041	9,414
CUMBERLAND	109,053	118,397	113,114	34,034	34,028	35,531
FARMINGTON	67,197	73,716	77,223	28,047	28,196	30,339
FRYEURG	300,734	328,620	323,355	61,453	61,467	65,947
HOULTON	70,846	96,324	70,117	14,281	18,591	14,179
LITCHFIELD	40,655	41,489	42,775	8,195	7,576	8,650
MONMOUTH	16,874	17,509	14,029	3,401	3,197	2,837
NEW PORTLAND	11,015	10,071	9,707	2,221	1,838	1,963
NORTHERN MAINE	72,305	85,032	75,860	28,778	29,673	30,142
OSSIPEE VALLEY	37,067	40,649	40,948	7,472	7,423	8,280
OXFORD COUNTY	51,972	58,672	42,441	25,869	26,232	25,307
PISCATAQUIS VALLEY	34,138	26,218	27,236	6,881	4,788	5,507
PITTSTON	24,041	23,897	33,675	4,846	4,364	6,810
SKOWHEGAN	117,892	118,146	109,756	35,299	33,995	35,045
SPRINGFIELD	37,236	41,330	39,759	7,505	7,548	8,040
TOPSHAM	44,836	33,285	38,580	24,848	22,919	24,748
UNION	59,582	66,321	55,823	26,996	27,231	27,243
WINDSOR	121,582	153,232	137,957	35,826	38,574	39,125
WORLD'S FAIR	9,542	9,408	7,414	1,924	1,718	1,500
HARMONY FREE FAIR	10,766	16,232	13,999	2,170	2,964	2,831
Totals	1,618,819	1,618,819	1,519,119	405,038	409,850	423,638
Fiber Frolic	377	990	0	0	0	n/a
	1,619,196					

TABLE IV**Agricultural Fair Facility Stipend Report**

Fair	2011			
	2010 Balance	2011 Approved Expenses	2011 Facility Stipend	2011 Balance
Acton	481,313	10,285	1,595	490,003
Athens	2,529	0	0	2,529
Bangor	2,121,364	0	3,366	2,117,998
Blue Hill	828,217	0	3,745	824,472
Clinton	264,906	16,361	2,491	278,776
Common Ground	3,241,436	273,578	1,867	3,513,147
Cumberland	1,186,598	76,020	18,435	1,244,183
Farmington	631,111	37,654	18,435	650,330
Fryeburg	8,106,364	463,443	18,435	8,551,372
Houlton	297,848	5,227	4,147	298,928
Litchfield	334,565	19,484	2,380	351,669
Monmouth	99,345	7,529	987	105,887
New Portland	160,977	5,179	645	165,511
Northern Maine	470,892	41,396	18,435	493,853
Ossipee Valley	309,583	10,891	2,170	318,304
Oxford County	1,353,774	58,000	18,435	1,393,339
Piscataquis Valley	869,474	33,178	1,998	900,654
Pittston	852,016	122,735	1,407	973,344
Skowhegan	2,819,850	85,373	18,435	2,886,788
Springfield	357,100	32,939	2,179	387,860
Topsham	276,603	49,825	18,435	307,993
Union	431,253	2,613	18,435	415,431
Windsor	1,854,707	85,298	18,435	1,921,570
World's Fair	129,006	9,925	559	138,372
Harmony Free Fair	171,035	31,291	630	201,696
TOTALS	26,613,940	1,478,224	196,081	27,896,083

TABLE V

2011 Distribution of Agricultural Fair Support Fund

Available	1,582,611.97	
Commission Share	15,714.27	
Net Available	1,566,897.70	
	34% to Purse Supplement	532,745.22
	66% to Premium Reimbursement	1,034,152.48
	13% for Administration	134,439.82
	Balance to Premium Reimbursement	899,712.66
Amount transferred to the Commission's Operating Budget		15,714.27
Amount was transferred January 25, 2011		

TABLE VI

**2011 Racino Distribution
014-01A-4731-02-1322
Ag. Fair Support Fund
Premiums**

Fair	Premiums	Due	Pay
Acton	27,254	16,785.70	16,785.70
Athens	0	0.00	0.00
Bangor	57,515	35,423.41	35,423.41
Blue Hill	63,984	39,407.66	39,407.66
Clinton	42,554	26,208.95	26,208.95
Common Ground	31,903	19,649.01	19,649.00
Cumberland	109,053	67,165.59	67,165.59
Farmington	67,197	41,386.54	41,386.54
Fryeburg	300,734	185,221.65	185,221.65
Houlton	70,846	43,633.95	43,633.95
Litchfield	40,655	25,039.36	25,039.36
Monmouth	16,874	10,392.67	10,392.67
New Portland	11,015	6,784.12	6,784.12
Northern Maine	72,305	44,532.55	44,532.55
Ossipee Valley	37,067	22,829.51	22,829.51
Oxford County	51,972	32,009.48	32,009.48
Piscataquis Valley	34,138	21,025.55	21,025.55
Pittston	24,041	14,806.82	14,806.82
Skowhegan	117,892	72,609.52	72,609.52
Springfield	37,236	22,933.60	22,933.60
Topsham	44,836	27,614.43	27,614.43
Union	59,852	36,862.76	36,862.76
Windsor	121,582	74,882.18	74,882.18
World's Fair	9,542	5,876.90	5,876.90
Harmony Free Fair	10,766	6,630.76	6,630.76
Total	1,460,813	899,712.66	899,712.66
Available	899,712.66		
Percent	0.6158986		

TABLE VII

**2011 Racino Distribution
014-01A-4731-02-1322
Ag. Fair Support Fund
Purse Supplement**

Track	Dashes	Percent	Due	Pay
Scarborough Downs	1,178	51.5988%	274,890.00	274,890.00
Bangor Raceway	531	23.2589%	123,910.52	123,910.52
Northern Maine Fair	53	2.3215%	12,367.72	12,367.72
Topsham Fair	48	2.1025%	11,200.95	11,200.95
Skowhegan Fair	75	3.2852%	17,501.49	17,501.49
Union Fair	51	2.2339%	11,901.01	11,901.00
Windsor Fair	91	3.9860%	21,235.14	21,235.14
Oxford County Fair	53	2.3215%	12,367.72	12,367.72
Farmington Fair	70	3.0661%	16,334.72	16,334.72
Cumberland Fair	73	3.1975%	17,034.78	17,034.78
Cumberland Extended	0	0.0000%	0.00	0.00
Fryeburg Fair	60	2.6281%	14,001.19	14,001.18
Total	2,283	100.0000%	532,745.22	532,745.22
Available	532,745.22			

2011 MAINE AGRICULTURAL FAIRS EVALUATION REPORT

EXPLANATION

This is the twenty-eighth report of the Fair Evaluation Commission operating according to statutory authority established by P.L.1983, Chapter 180, 7MRSa Sec. 82, and regulations set forth in Chapter 13 of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources Rules. In 2008, the Committee revised the scoring system used in rating the fairs as well as reorganizing the Evaluation Form.

The Evaluation point ratings are as follows: less than 182 is "POOR"; 183 to 258 points is "ADEQUATE"; 259 to 324 points is "GOOD"; and, 325 to 400 is "VERY GOOD".

The members of the Commission for the 2011 Fair Season were: Ann-Michele Ames; Glenda Barker; Deanne Merrill; Francis Small and Elaine Emery.

The Commission members used objective measures to evaluate the fairs; however; due to the potential for variation among the members in using the current scoring system the evaluators are assigned to evaluate different fairs every two years.

The following pages contain the summary of the Fair Evaluator's ratings. Each Fair receives a copy of the written Evaluation Report completed by the assigned Evaluator.

2011 FAIR EVALUATIONS

- ACTON FAIR: Rated **Good** by Francis Small
- ATHENS FAIR: Rated **Did Not Operate**
- BANGOR STATE FAIR: Rated **Good** by Elaine Emery
- BLUE HILL FAIR: Rated **Good** by Ann-Michele Ames
- CLINTON LIONS CLUB FAIR: Rated **Good** by Deanne Merrill
- COMMON GROUND COUNTRY FAIR: Rated **Very Good** by Deanne Merrill
- CUMBERLAND FAIR: Rated **Very Good** by Elaine Emery
- FARMINGTON FAIR: Rated **Good** by Francis Small
- FRYEBURG FAIR: Rated **Very Good** by Francis Small
- HARMONY FREE FAIR: Rated **Good** Rated by Glenda Barker
- HOULTON FAIR: Rated **Good** by Deanne Merrill
- LITCHFIELD FAIR: Rated **Good** by Ann-Michele Ames
- MAINE FIBER FROLIC: Rated **Adequate** by Ann-Michele Ames
- MONMOUTH FAIR: Rated **Good** by Ann-Michele Ames
- NEW PORTLAND LIONS CLUB AGRICULTURAL FAIR: Rated **Good**
By Deanne Merrill
- NORTHERN MAINE FAIR: Rated **Good** by Elaine Emery
- OSSIPEE VALLEY AGRICULTURAL FAIR: Rated **Adequate** by Ann-Michele Ames

2011 FAIR EVALUATIONS (cont.)

OXFORD FAIR: Rated Good by Glenda Barker

DOVER FOXCROFT: Rated Good by Glenda Barker

PITTSTON FAIR: Rated Good by Elaine Emery

SKOWHEGAN STATE FAIR: Rated Good by Francis Small

SPRINGFIELD FAIR: Rated Good by Deanne Merrill

TOPSHAM FAIR: Rated Adequate by Francis Small

UNION FAIR and Maine Wild Blueberry Festival: Rated Very Good by Ann-Michele Ames

WINDSOR FAIR: Rated Very Good by Elaine Emery

WORLD'S FAIR (North Waterford): Rated Good by Glenda Barker

AGRICULTURAL FAIR DATES

	2011	2012	2013
Fiber Frolic	June 4&5	June 2&3	June 1&2
Houlton	July 1-4	July 4-8	July 4-7
Ossipee Valley	July 7-10	July 12-15	July 11-14
North Waterford	July 15-17	July 20-22	July 19-21
Pittston	July 21-24	July 26-29	July 25-28
Bangor	July 29-Aug. 7	July 27-Aug. 5	July 26-Aug. 4
Northern Maine	July 29-Aug. 6	July 27-Aug. 4	July 26-Aug. 3
Monmouth	Aug. 3-6	Aug. 1-4	July 31-Aug. 3
Athens	Aug. 5-7	Aug. 3-5	Aug. 2-4
Topsham	Aug. 7-14	Aug. 5-12	Aug 4-11
Skowhegan	Aug. 11-20	Aug. 9-18	Aug. 8-17
Union	Aug. 20-27	Aug. 18-25	Aug. 17-24
Acton	Aug. 25-28	Aug. 23-26	Aug. 22-25
Piscataquis	Aug. 25-28	Aug. 23-26	Aug. 22-25
Windsor	Aug. 28-Sept. 5	Aug. 26-Sept. 3	Aug. 25-Sept. 2
Blue Hill	Sept. 1-5	Aug. 30-Sept. 3	Aug. 29-Sept. 2
Springfield	Sept. 2-5	Aug. 31-Sept. 3	Aug. 30-Sept. 2
Harmony	Sept. 2-5	Aug. 31-Sept. 2	Aug. 30-Sept. 2
Clinton	Sept. 8-11	Sept. 6-9	Sept. 5-8
Litchfield	Sept. 9-11	Sept. 7-9	Sept. 6-8
Oxford	Sept. 11-18	Sept. 9-16	Sept. 8-15
New Portland	Sept. 16-18	Sept. 14-16	Sept. 13-15
Farmington	Sept. 18-24	Sept. 16-22	Sept. 15-21
Common Ground	Sept. 23-25	Sept. 21-23	Sept. 20-22
Cumberland	Sept. 25-Oct. 1	Sept. 23-29	Sept. 22-28
Fryeburg	October 2-9	Sept. 30-Oct. 7	Sept. 29-Oct. 6
<u>Cornish Horsemen's Day</u>	Sept. 10		